

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the RADSTOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
in GENERAL MEETING assembled, 21st April, 1922.

Gentlemen,  
I have the honour to submit my 10th annual report on the sanitary conditions and health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1921.

The Ministry of Health have issued a circular as to the contents and arrangement of the annual reports. Conditions which do not vary from year to year are now not necessarily reported annually, but a special report will be given every five years (called a survey report). The primary object of survey reports will be to review the needs of the area in relation to the protection of the public health, and the progress made in meeting these needs since the date of the preceding survey report.

1. General Statistics.
- Area (acres) 997 acres.
- Population (1921), 3,682 (1911 Census), 3,691.
- Number of inhabited houses, 898.
- Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 941.
- Rateable value, £12,103 to General District Rate.
- Sum represented by a penny rate, £50.
2. Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.
- Births—Legitimate, total 86; M., 54; F., 32. Birth rate, 23. Illegitimate, 3.
- Deaths—Total 38; death rate, 10.3.
- Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—From sepsis, 0; other cases, 0.
- In the following table I give the causes of all deaths and sex:—

Cause of Death.	Males	Females
Enteric Fever .....	0	1
Eucephalitis Lethargica .....	1	0
Other Tuberculous Disease .....	1	0
Cancer .....	2	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	0	4
Heart Disease .....	2	5
Bronchitis .....	1	1
Pneumonia .....	0	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0	1
Acute and Ch. Nephritis...	1	0
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth .....	0	3
Other Defined Diseases .....	3	9
Total .....	11	27

- Deaths of Infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births, 34.8. Legitimate, 3; illegitimate, 0; total, 3.
- Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.
- Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.
- Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 1.
3. Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria .....	4	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	5	0	0
Enteric Fever .....	0	0	0
Phorperal Fever .....	0	0	0
Pneumonia .....	6	0	0
Other Diseases generally notifiable (Erysipelas) .....	2	0	0
Other diseases notifiable locally .....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis:—			
(a) Pulmonary .....	6	0	0
M., 1; F., 5; total, 6.			
(b) Non-Pulmonary .....	2	0	0
M., 2; F., 0; total, 2.			

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases

Notified	Treated		Vision Unimpaired.		Vision Impaired.		Total Blindness.		Total deaths.
At Home.	In Hospital								
1 ...	1 ...	0 ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0

4. Causes of Sickness.

No special causes of sickness and invalidity have been noteworthy in the district during the year.

## 5—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

- Professional Nursing in the Home.
- (a) General.—The Radstock and Writhlington Nursing Association provide two nurses for the District. The Association is under the Somerset C.N. Association.
- (b) For Infectious Diseases.—The County Medical Officer of Health provides Nurses on the application of the local Medical Officer of Health.

Midwives.—There are two practising Midwives under the Local Nursing Association.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—No arrangements exist for attending to the health of expectant mothers.

A Somerset County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary and Venereal Clinic are situated in your District.

There is no Hospital situated in the District, and at the present time not even an infectious diseases hospital. The Medical Officer of Health for Mid-somer Norton has kindly undertaken to take in any case of emergency to the Hospital maintained by his Council.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Council have an ambulance for infectious cases, improvised from a horse-drawn brougham. For non-infectious, and accident cases, the district is well supplied with two ambulances. One of these is run in connection with the British Red Cross Society Scheme.

- 6—LABORATORY WORK.
- Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Somerset County Council.
- Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free to Practitioners on application to the Medical Officer of Health. Free use has been made of this facility.
- Bye-Laws with respect to new streets and buildings; nuisances; slaughter houses, and lodging houses are in force. These are all based on the Model Bye-Laws of the late Local Government Board.
- The only adoptive Act in force is Part III. of "The Public Health Amendment Act 1890," dealing with sanitary and other provisions.

- 9.—HOUSING.
- Number of New Houses erected during the year:—
- (a) Total, 12.
- (b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme, 12.

- 1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.
- Inspection.
- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects, 3.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, 3.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation, None.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 3.

- 2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.
- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, None.

- 3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.
- A.—Proceedings under Sec. 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act 1919.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, None.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—
- (a) By owners, None.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, None.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, None.

- B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, None.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—
- (a) By owners, None.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, None.

**C.—Proceedings under Sec. 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.**

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to making of closing orders, None.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit, None.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, None.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders, None.

**NOTE TO NO. 9. HOUSING.**

With regard to inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in my last annual report, I referred to 51 houses, which had been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who was the officer designated for the purpose by the Council. These houses were re-inspected in November, 1921, when it was found that in respect to 16 some repairs had been carried out, but in no case had the whole of the works ordered by the Council been executed, while in 21 cases nothing had been done by the persons upon whom notices had been served. In my opinion, there is now no reason why the works ordered by the Council, to make these houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, should be further delayed, and I trust that the Council will now see that their orders are complied with.

With respect to the New Houses erected under Government Scheme during the year under review, no information can be given as to the effect on the older built houses, as the new houses were not occupied at the end of the year.

I think that the class of tenant will not be those who are living in the defective houses at present, as the rents will not be within the means of the occupiers. The new tenants will rather be those who are at present living in apartments, or who while working in the Council's district, are, through being hitherto unable to obtain a house, living some distance away from the district.

Plans for one house, built by a private person under the provisions of "The Housing Additional Powers Act, 1919," were approved, and the house is nearing completion.

**SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.**

**Conventiences.**—There are 35 earth closets in the district, no conversion having taken place during the year. The number of hand flushed closets remain the same as last year, viz., 204, and one additional fresh water cistern flushed w.c. has been constructed during the year, making a total of this class of 524.

**Food Supply.**—Fifty inspections of places where food is prepared have been made, and a considerable quantity of fish which was found on arrival at the Market to be bad was destroyed.

**Slaughter Houses.**—There is one Registered Slaughter House, also three licensed ones, one having been erected during the year. The three licensed ones are structurally in first class condition, and all are well looked after and kept clean.

**Disinfection.**—This is carried out by means of Izal Spraying and Formaldehyde Lamps. Eighteen houses were disinfected during the year.

With respect to disinfestation, the Council have supplied upon application gratis, poison for the destruction of rats and mice, and this has been freely applied for, and good work accomplished by its use.

**Dairies, Etc.**—No action has been taken by the Council under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, but these premises have been inspected from time to time, and found in a satisfactory condition.

No action has been taken under the Drugs and Food Act, and Milk and Cream Regulations, but the Police have taken samples and proceeded in cases of adulteration.

**Public Health Staff.**—This consists of a part time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, who combines the duties of his office with those of Surveyor and Collector to the Council, and employs three others to assist him in the work.

**Rainfall.**—The Report of the Surveyor on this, which has accompanied the Report of the M.O.H. for the last 21 years, has in consequence of his prolonged illness during 1921, had to be omitted on this occasion, no consecutive records having been kept. The rainfall, however, at Bath, eight miles away, was 17.29, the average from 1881 to 1915 there being 29.80. The difference from the average was 12.51, and the percentage of the average 58

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. SCALES.

*Radstock, 13th April, 1922.*





# Urban District Council of Radstock,

IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
(Dr. J. E. SCALES),

For the year ended 31st December, 1921.

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13th April, 1922

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Printed at The Herald Press, North Gate, Bath.